- As on date, investigation is under progress in 7 cases and as estimated by vigilance, total estimated loss of revenue to the State exchequer is Rs.526.13 crore.
- The investigation is continuing and due action will be taken based on final findings. The State Level Enforcement Squad (SLES) which undertook intensive enforcement from 10th to 19th October, 09 conducted raids on different areas and during one such raid, the SLES members were attacked by illegal operators.
- Orissa Government has noticed that mafias are operating across the State borders of Orissa and Jharkhand states and in order to check illegal mining activities, matter has been taken up at senior level drawing attention to illegal inter-state mining operations and suggesting that a common platform should be set up so that team of officers from both the States can plan and work together.
- Between 10.11.2009 and 19.11.2009, the State Government has seized 4 vehicles, 19513 metric tonne of iron ore, 158 metric tonne of manganese ore valued at Rs.2.27 crore.

Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India has written a letter on 26.11.09 to Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand, drawing his attention to the report of the State Government of Orissa which insisted upon joint inspection by the officers of both States.

Enquiry by Indian Bureau of Mines on mining scam

†1930. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Bureau of Mines has been entrusted with the work pertaining to studying and conducting a preliminary inquiry in recently unearthed mining scam in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Bureau has since given any initial findings;

(c) whether any further report is likely from the Bureau in this matter; and

(d) whether Government would made public the report given by the Bureau?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Central Government received representations on illegal mining by M/s. Ram Bahadur Thakur Limited (RBTL) in Keonjhar district of Orissa. The Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) carried out preliminary inspection of the complaint between 30.8.2009 to 1.9.2009 and found evidence of illegal mining of 1957 tonnes of iron ore and 56453 tonnes of manganese ore amounting to approximately Rs.23.39 crore. The report of IBM has been sent to State Government for taking appropriate action against the guilty.

(d) IBM report is not a confidential report.

Allocation of reserves of Chiria mines

1931. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of estimated 2 billion tonnes of reserves in Chiria mines, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been considered for allocation of 1 billion tonnes of iron ore reserves;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.